APPENDIX I

Vol. 33, No. 45 November 8, 1974

WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF LIBRARIANS FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED
Seattle, Wash., September 16-20, 1974

Marcia Finseth, Washington Regional Librarian, was hostess and chairperson for the Western Regional Conference, attended by librarians from 11 regional and two subregional libraries representing the States of Alaska, Hawaii, California, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, and Montana. Attending from the Library of Congress Division for the Blind and Physically Handicapped were Mona Werner, Head of the Selection Section, Ralph Garretson, Head of the Technical Section, and Karen Renninger, Supervisor of the Library Services Unit and consultant for the Western region.

The group, welcomed by W. O. Youngs, Director of the Seattle Public Library, spent the first morning touring the Seattle Regional Library, the Radio Talking Book office, and the studios of the Braille and Taping Service. Elaine Davenport, Coordinator of the Radio Talking Book program in Seattle, described the growth of this program. Five hundred patrons now own special receivers—provided at no charge—and an estimated 500 more will have them within the next few months. Programs include best-selling books read by volunteers, daily newspaper articles and advertisements, job-opportunities, women's news, a reading of *TV Guide*, selections from *Time* magazine, and notes on consumer news. William Edes, Director of the Braille and Taping Service, described his program, which provides free production of tapes and braille materials for students requesting textbooks in a nonprint format. An expanding group of volunteers helps with the project, sponsored by the Northwest Foundation for the Blind.

In the afternoon, Phyllis Cairns described computer operations at the Braille Institute of America Library. Gerald Buttars discussed the activities of the new Western Multi-State Center. Already in operation, the center provides publications, tapes, and equipment to regional libraries which telephone requests on a free In-Wats line. Regional librarians were encouraged to use the center at any time. The possibility of a regular MSC newsletter was considered.

Karen Renninger outlined inter-library loan problems and procedures. She stressed the need to inform patrons of services beyond existing catalogs. She also explained that non-located author, title, or subject requests are automatically referred to the DBPH Selections Section for their consideration.

The remainder of the afternoon was devoted to book selection at DBPH. Mona Werner described current book selection policies, and stated that half the books to be produced in 1975 have already been selected. She discussed new guidelines being developed for writing annotations, responsiveness of her section to reader requests and recommendations, development of a Processing Section at DBPH, and a new collection development plan in preparation. The group expressed a need for a written division policy on local production of books so that they will have support for larger budgets to accommodate this production.

Ralph Garretson spoke to the group on the second day of sessions. He defined possible new emission standards for polyvinylchloride, which could affect the entire record production industry. If standards are established which are very exacting and difficult to meet, many companies might not be able to afford the costs of modifying their operations; others would be forced to pass such costs on to the consumer. This could affect the proportion of discs to cassettes the division plans to produce in future years. He also discussed the new four-track cassette which, if tests and surveys verify existing data on usefulness and efficiency, will be added to the program in late 1975.

Kristy Coomes, Consultant for the Washington State Library, presented suggestions for cooperation between regional and public libraries. For regional libraries, she recommended annual workshops to help orient all State and local agencies serving the same clientele, programs in library schools to familiarize students with services for the blind and physically handicapped, close rapport with librarians working locally in the State, and a regular newsletter to keep agency staff informed on progress at the local and national levels. Public libraries, on the other hand, could give more emphasis to audio-visual materials, provide local publicity for the program, sponsor workshops to attract and train local volunteers, and even build a community service file, as well as a "people index," to list persons and agencies available to help the blind and physically handicapped in training and rehabilitation. She also recommended that at least a rotating collection of talking books and cassette books be housed at public libraries so that local users would have easy and quick access to materials.

[*Karen Renninger*]

APPENDIX II

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SECOND CONFERENCE OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN LIBRARIANS
Quezon City, Philippines, December 10-14, 1973

[Editor's Note: Marina G. Dayrit, University Librarian of the University of the Philippines and Conference Chairman of the Second Conference of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL II), submitted a report on CONSAL II to the LC *Information Bulletin*. A summary of the report follows.]

The Second Conference of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL II) opened on December 10, 1973, at the University of the Philippines Law Center Auditorium. Attending were 170 delegates and observers, signifying a 42 percent increase in participation over CONSAL I. Six Southeast Asian countries—Indonesia, Republic of Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and the Philippines—were represented by a total of 153 delegates. Observers at CONSAL II represented Australia, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, the United States, UNESCO, Jakarta, Bangkok, and the Asian Development Bank.

At the opening session, Filipino Ambassador Leticia R. Shahani, Acting Assistant Secretary on UN Affairs and International Conferences, Department of Foreign Affairs, delivered the welcoming address. She stressed that CONSAL was "within the context of a commitment not only by the leaders of the Philippines but also by those of other Asian countries to the aims and ideals of regional cooperation." Librarians, she stated, have an important role in helping the maturing countries of Southeast Asia seek their own identities in the world. Her concluding call for rural librarians working in Southeast Asia to hasten development on a regional level reverberated throughout discussions during CONSAL II.

Four sessions and four group discussions were held on the theme, "Education and Training for Librarianship in Southeast Asia—Appraisal of its Revelance to National Development." Papers presented at these sessions covered the four topics of the conference: government policies affecting development and growth of libraries; evaluation of library education; professional career development opportunities for librarians; and bibliographic and microfilming activities since CONSAL I. Discussions during the hour-long open forums that followed the presentation of papers and concluded each session clarified and evaluated the national situations from a regional point of view.

The reports underscored common goals and problems and strongly indicated that librarians in each country approach the problems of national library development along similar lines. More clearly than CONSAL I, CONSAL II determined that problems in government policy, education for librarianship, and career opportunities for librarians were best considered and solved on the national level. Accordingly in the business meeting, CONSAL II adopted many resolutions recommending to national governments, library associations, library schools, and libraries in individual countries in the region various steps which should be taken to accelerate national library development.

A program of staff exchanges among libraries and library schools in the region was reiterated, exchanges that might be introduced through the auspices of the national governments of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and other regional bodies. The assistance of national governments, and international and regional agencies and foundations was also urged to provide continuing training of librarians within the region. CONSAL II resolved to have standing committees for continuing cooperative endeavors such as microfilming activity, bibliography, information techniques, computer applications, staff exchanges, education and training, and other areas of common interest. The conference also voted to support joint programs with the Southeast Asian Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives in recognition of common goals and aspirations.

CONSAL II urged the International Federation of Library Associations to increase its concern for situations in and accord better representation to developing areas. The feasibility of forming a Southeast Asian Federation of Library Associations as a regional branch of IFLA will be explored by the conference.

At the business meeting, CONSAL II accepted the invitation of the Indonesian delegates to meet for CONSAL III in Indonesia. Luwarsih Pringgoadisurjo, Director of the Indonesian National Scientific Documentation Center, was nominated Chairman of the CONSAL III Committee by the Indonesian delegation and accordingly confirmed by the conference.